

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Geological Mapping Advisory Board Minutes
January 25, 2022 Winter Meeting

The Alaska Geological Mapping Advisory Board held its winter meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 from 10:00am until 2:30pm. This meeting was held as an online teleconference via Microsoft Teams and open to the public.

[10:02] Start of meeting, roll call.

Board Members Present:

Curt Freeman (FAI)
Margaret Darrow (FAI)
Paul McCarthy (FAI)
Mitch McDonald (FAI)
Jamey Jones (ANC, Chair)
Tom Homza (ANC)
Jamie Marunde (ANC)
Nicole Kinsman (ANC)

Board Members Not Present:

Rob Retherford (ANC)

[10:04] M. Darrow approves agenda, C. Freeman seconds

Old business: Fix “986 field days,” and “Most geologic...” phrasing in last meeting minutes.

[10:05] C. Freeman Approves updated minutes, T. Homza seconds

[10:06] S. Masterman new business

- Introduced DNR SSD folks, DNR Deputy Commissioner John Crowther, and board members.

[10:08] N. Kinsman joined the meeting.

- S. Masterman gave an overview of division budget, major, future programs and projects, and discussed related staffing challenges.
- C. Freeman had comments regarding hiring and staffing. “Market is dried up, due to demand outside of Alaska and around the globe. It’s going to be a major challenge for DGGGS.”
- M. McDonald at DOT had the same issue. “Maybe DGGGS could consider the consultant model.”

[10:32] D. Stevens overview of the Engineering Geology section

- C. Freeman “Visibility of DGGGS in front of the public is good. Great to have the info on the website.”
- J. Jones said, “It’s great to see DGGGS science pop up on social media.”

[11:08] K. Johnson overview of the Geologic Materials Center

- J. Jones stated “Good CORE-CM meeting at the GMC last week. Nice job hosting.”

[11:24] M. Hendricks overview of the Geologic Information Center

- J. Jones stated “Web services are great. Alaska Map Index and GeoChem Tool has been touted by the USGS Minerals group.”
- M. Hendricks stated “Our geologists can now make some great things on their own.”

[11:45] M. Wartes overview of the Energy Resources section

- N. Kinsman provided comments on staff retention. If you look at some of these field photos, it’s not difficult to recruit passionate geoscientists. Competitive salaries and work-time benefits could help close the gap.

[1:02] E. Twelker overview of the Minerals Resources section

- J. Jones had a comment regarding the EarthMRI priorities. DOI spend plan needs Congressional approval. Excited to see additional airborne geophysics data added at the regional scale.
- J. Marunde had a question regarding the timeline for posting 2020 Upper Tanana geologic maps. ET must be published by 2023 at a two-year project cycle. JM wanted to follow up with ET.

[1:24] L. Jones overview of the Geospatial Information Office

- N. Kinsman asked about coordination at the federal level. L. Jones would like her office to be part of the AGC workplace to meet state and federal agency needs.

[1:47] C. Cameron overview of the Volcanology section

[2:05] Comments from public? None.

[2:06] C. Freeman “Always impressed by what’s going on at DGGS. Impressed by the new scope across the division. Where are we going to get all of the people needed to do the work?”

J. Jones It would be nice to pat Steve on the back and wish him luck in the future. You’re leaving it in better shape, Steve. Thanks, Steve.

S. Masterman “It’s been an honor and a privilege to work at DGGS and I will miss it. I look forward to watching the division’s progress from afar.”

[2:09] General meeting ended.

[2:10] N. Kinsman gave kudos to the interdisciplinary work that the survey is taking on.

[2:15] P. McCarthy discussed the importance of collaboration with the local universities and state and federal agencies.

[2:20] J. Jones moves to adjourn, C. Freeman seconds the motion.